

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Stephen Paul HUNTER, Michael Robert John REEVE,
David Roberts MCMURTRY, Hugo George DERRICK

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of
PCT/GB01/03461

Filed: March 29, 2002

Docket No.: 112436

For: BEARING ARRANGEMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4,5,8,10,11,13,14 and 17 as follows:

4. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein the two parts of each of the bearing assemblies include a female part having a recess or aperture and a male part acceptable into the recess or aperture.

5. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein, at at least one of the said two assemblies the contact is sliding contact.

8. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of the two parts is formed of a plastics material.

10. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact is rolling contact and the parts include a ball race.

11. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 wherein the resilient displacement of the plane is provided by a resiliently movable female part.

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13. (Amended) A measurement probe support having a pivot including a bearing arrangement according to claim 1.

14. (Amended) A support for a measurement probe comprising an articulatable wrist providing two axes of rotation for the probe, at a first axis there being provided a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, the bearing arrangement being connected to a spindle having an extension extending beyond the bearing arrangement in the direction of the first axis.

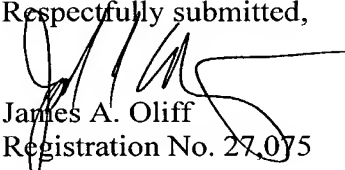
17. (Amended) A support for a measurement probe as claimed in claim 14 wherein the said bearing arrangement comprises a ball in a recess and the extension extends beyond the ball.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 17 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 4,5,8,10,11,13,14 and 17 are amended to remove multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,


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Attached: Appendix
Date: March 29, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

4. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the two parts of each of the bearing assemblies include a female part having a recess or aperture and a male part acceptable into the recess or aperture.

5. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein, at at least one of the said two assemblies the contact is sliding contact.

8. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 7~~ wherein at least one of the two parts is formed of a plastics material.

10. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the contact is rolling contact and the parts include a ball race.

11. (Amended) A bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the resilient displacement of the plane is provided by a resiliently movable female part.

13. (Amended) A measurement probe support having a pivot including a bearing arrangement according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~.

14. (Amended) A support for a measurement probe comprising an articulatable wrist providing two axes of rotation for the probe, at a first axis there being provided a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, the bearing arrangement being connected to a spindle having an extension extending beyond the bearing arrangement in the direction of the first axis.

17. (Amended) A support for a measurement probe as claimed in claim 14 ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~ wherein the said bearing arrangement comprises a ball in a recess and the extension extends beyond the ball.